

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US2004/021046

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F2/24 A61F2/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 544 285 B1 (ROBICSEK FRANCIS ET AL) 8 April 2003 (2003-04-08) figures 14, 16, 17 column 8, line 47 – line 67 column 11, line 25 – line 52	1-7, 16-24
Y	WO 95/03754 A (SKALKEAS GRIGORIOS) 9 February 1995 (1995-02-09) figure 3 page 6, line 18 – line 28	10-15
X	US 6 364 905 B1 (CASAGRANDE IVAN ET AL) 2 April 2002 (2002-04-02) column 3, line 19 – column 4, line 31	1, 4, 6, 7, 10-13
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/11/2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 230 901 A (TOKYO WOMEN S MEDICAL COLLEGE ; GUNZE KK (JP)) 14 August 2002 (2002-08-14) figure 5 paragraph '0009! - paragraph '0028! -----	1,4,6,8, 9
X	US 6 197 143 B1 (BODNAR ENDRE) 6 March 2001 (2001-03-06) figures 1-5 column 3, line 12 - line 37 -----	1,4,6,7
X	US 6 375 679 B1 (COLIN CLARK ET AL) 23 April 2002 (2002-04-23) figure 1 column 2, line 28 - line 52 -----	1,4,6,8, 9

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 25 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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